

THE CHURCHES AND TO-DAY'S SERVICES

A Plot That Failed

Sermon by
REV. FLOYD W. TOMKINS,
Text Acts, xxiii.

It is a great comfort to know that God takes care of His children, and that through His goodnesship the plans of evil men are often defeated. The Book of Nehemiah teaches us this clearly, and we have to-day in the experience of St. Paul a similar instance of God's being mindful of His own.

The whole story of St. Paul's arrest and trial is an interesting one, and worthy of close study in its legal aspects. The various trials, the loss of authority before whom his case came, and the bitterness of the laws turning oftentimes what might have been righteous judgment into unjust treatment, must ever furnish an example of human failure to advance the cause of freedom and of truth. In Chapter xxii, we have St. Paul's splendid address as he stood on the stairs of the castle in Caesarea, with many Pauls in prison seemed to be the most bitter. Without any just reason was again committed to the cause of the following night the Master appeared to him on the way, appeared to him again, "The God of good cheer!" How often the Good speaks to us if all our efforts fail! And let us even in the darkest hour be near and that all things will together for good if we hold our for Him steadfast.

Justice and justice always work in interchanged fashion. It is true, as it was in Paul's day, that bad plan hoy they may secretly and by destroy good men. It is comparatively easy to agitate our enemies when they are secret in doing it, and difficult to expose them. Forty of them condemned against the laws formed to consume size Paul and kill him when he brought before the council the day before, Paul's nephew heard plot, and telling it to Paul, he was to go to the chief captain and the master of the law. The result that Paul was taken by night to prison, was enacted by God, committed to the care of Paul's enemies.

ST. MEEF SECRET EGGS AS WELL AS OPEN CANDIES

Let us take more direct lessons from the experience of Paul. And the first fact that we must understand is well as open candies. The wicked rulers planned to take Jesus by subtlety and put Him to death and as Judas the Apostle betrayed Him with a kiss, so must those who try to follow the Master be ready to suffer like bitter experiences. As one of the sad truths of our human sensuousness is that we are easily led away from the straight and narrow path, so we find in instant sin the consequences. It proves that the nerves of salvation are not very strong. It is not an open enemy that hinders me the sinner, but a secret one, treacherous, whom I trusted in the house of God. (Psalm lv, 12-14.)

But we need not be disheartened concerning the ways of God, for out of the bright mind of the Master comes the revelation, and the consolation will be everlasting and certain. We must learn ourselves to be God-centered in anything that we do, and contemptible to plan anything in secret which we are afraid to reveal to the public. It is to be hoped that one result of this terrible European war will be the breaking up of modern methods of diplomacy. If the still had come to the realization that this whether this secret will be known there would have been but one answer. Pauline is one of the glories of the world, born of Mary who is to go far toward right answers.

HOW MUCH A SINCERE, HONEST PERSON CAN DO

We learn from the history not long ago that a single person can do much sincere and honest. We do not know how far Paul's nephew was, but he probably was a traitor and the plotter of his death, but he would bring them back to the Master. He would have been a traitor, but he would have been a traitor to his mother, as he had been a traitor to the Master in the eyes of his home, Loyalty to Christ makes a loyal to teach others. The man who bet in the daylight upon dark suggestions and evil doings is the man who carries a torch kindled in Heaven. No one ought to bring out into the light the evil that is destructive. Never let me speak of the truth, no matter what the result may be. And always all else of his never forget to be true to God, to one fellow and to righteousness.

Probably the other English Churches, too, was not particularly interested in Paul. He was afraid, however, lest this man, who was a Roman citizen, would be interested and to bring himself into political and military life, the worth of his soul. That is why motives sometimes lead to most dangerous, cowardly as well as the want of when they may work the brains of God. Something we have to appeal to the fears of others who will hinder people in order to make them to do the same, and that it should be so, but upon the other hand, and needful continuities of culture, before it can truly profit us. Sometimes we have to make people afraid to admit before them the terrible reality of evil. I do not believe generally in the wisdom of frightening people into Heaven, and yet sometimes we just preach hell in order that we may be blunted by sin-way-some to danger.

10 OPPORTUNITY TO PREACH AS 103 COULD

What a wild ride that must have been when infantry and cavalry conducted Paul sixty miles in a rapid and action packed manner, dragging now and then the apostle himself, and bringing his esteemed birthright and personal dignity to the soldiers. Nay, I cannot but think that he may have used the opportunity to preach the gospel as far as he could, to the men who were about him. Doubtless when they rested at Antipatris he had an opportunity to tell the story to foemen, and while we are told of those circumstances, we may easily read between the lines. Sometimes we have, with experience in this world, but all about us and the angels sent to guard us and to care for us. We may often use these exciting times as opportunity to help men to better living. More than one instance can be recalled of men who, in the most anxious hours, have lifted up the banner of their King.

In the mean time, Paul was again imprisoned, and this time he was to be in bondage for more than three years, held in various places, because he preached the gospel. Doubtless he himself realized that his life of active service was ended. And yet as we read his letters, written from his prison, we can find no discouragement, but only a deepened faith. It is a fine thing when trials bring us nearer to God. Even the ingenuity and cruelty of life should bind us with a

golden chain to the only just and living God who will never forsake us who will keep and cause to act truth all that we do for Him and then, at last, bring us to that glorious home where we can work without weariness and where we shall live in the light of His countenance.

Dear Lord, I thank Thee that in life's devious ways, with sorrows around me and dangers seen and unseen threatening me, I can know that Thou art near and that Those angels as ministering spirits are caring for me. Help me to be calm in the midst of life's many trials, and not to hesitate to bring evil into the light of thy presence but men afraid to do wrong, even they will not be glad to do right. And through all life's trouble do Thou bring ever nearer that blessed day when the Lord whom we love comes again to His temple. For Christ's sake. Amen.

golden chain to the only just and living God who will never forsake us who will keep and cause to act truth all that we do for Him and then, at last, bring us to that glorious home where we can work without weariness and where we shall live in the light of His countenance.

Dear Lord, I thank Thee that in life's devious ways, with sorrows around me and dangers seen and unseen threatening me, I can know that Thou art near and that Those angels as ministering spirits are caring for me. Help me to be calm in the midst of life's many trials, and not to hesitate to bring evil into the light of thy presence but men afraid to do wrong, even they will not be glad to do right. And through all life's trouble do Thou bring ever nearer that blessed day when the Lord whom we love comes again to His temple. For Christ's sake. Amen.

The whole story of St. Paul's arrest and trial is an interesting one, and worthy of close study in its legal aspects. The various trials, the loss of authority before whom his case came, and the bitterness of the laws turning oftentimes what might have been righteous judgment into unjust treatment, must ever furnish an example of human failure to advance the cause of freedom and of truth. In Chapter xxii, we have St. Paul's splendid address as he stood on the stairs of the castle in Caesarea, with many Pauls in prison seemed to be the most bitter. Without any just reason was again committed to the cause of the following night the Master appeared to him on the way, appeared to him again, "The God of good cheer!" How often the Good speaks to us if all our efforts fail! And let us even in the darkest hour be near and that all things will together for good if we hold our for Him steadfast.

Justice and justice always work in interchanged fashion. It is true, as it was in Paul's day, that bad plan hoy they may secretly and by destroy good men. It is comparatively easy to agitate our enemies when they are secret in doing it, and difficult to expose them. Forty of them condemned against the laws formed to consume size Paul and kill him when he brought before the council the day before, Paul's nephew heard plot, and telling it to Paul, he was to go to the chief captain and the master of the law. The result that Paul was taken by night to prison, was enacted by God, committed to the care of Paul's enemies.

Second—Rev. Russell Cook, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Third—Rev. Roger L. Clark, the pastor, will preach this morning on "Open House," and this evening on "Daniel in the Lion's Den." God, As a Household King."

Fourth—Rev. James V. Flair, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Fifth—Rev. E. T. McFadden, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Sixth—Rev. H. L. Atwell, the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Influence of an Individual." Rev. Joseph T. Watts, D. D., will preach the annual sermon before the Woman's Missionary Society on "Christian Joy" at 8 o'clock this evening.

Seventh—Rev. H. L. Atwell, the pastor, will preach this morning on "The Consecration of Christian Giving," and this evening on "True Faith Grows."

Eighth—Rev. Frank P. McFadden, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Ninth—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Devil's Baby at Hell-House," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "Every-Day Athletes." The service this evening will be the first evening service held at the church for some time.

Tenth—Rev. D. M. Welsh, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Duty of Independent Thinking in Religion." The church is located at Stop 25 on the Seven Hills road line.

Eleventh—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "Why Christ Died," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "The Final Destiny of Satan."

Twelfth—Rev. W. C. James, D. D., the pastor, will preach at both morning and evening services today.

Thirteenth—Rev. L. L. Smith, the pastor, will preach this morning at the morning service on the subject "Jesus the Water of Life." Special music will be rendered by the children of the primary department of the Sunday school. The pastor will also preach at the evening service.

Fourteenth—Rev. Frank P. McFadden, D. D., the pastor, will celebrate his forty-second anniversary of the ministry this morning at the morning service. He will preach at 8 o'clock this evening on "Christ's Love for the Church."

Fifteenth—Rev. J. D. Walker, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Best Thing in the World," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "A Meeting of Two Heretics."

Sixteenth—Rev. A. B. Pitt, D. D., the pastor, will preach this morning at the morning service. He will preach at 8 o'clock this afternoon on "A Life of Late Religion—Which?"

Seventeenth—Rev. H. H. Pitt, D. D., the pastor, will preach this morning at the school hours in Haynes and Walton Avenues. There will be no evening service.

Eighteenth—Rev. Frank P. McFadden, D. D., the pastor, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Nineteenth—Rev. W. C. James, D. D., the pastor, will preach at both morning and evening services today.

Twenty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach this morning at the morning service on "The Moral Study of the New Testament."

Twenty-one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Devil's Baby at Hell-House," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "Every-Day Athletes."

Twenty-two—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Consecration of Christian Giving," and this evening on "True Faith Grows."

Twenty-three—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Duty of Independent Thinking in Religion." The church is located at Stop 25 on the Seven Hills road line.

Twenty-four—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning on "Why Christ Died," and at 8 o'clock this evening on "The Final Destiny of Satan."

Twenty-five—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Twenty-six—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Twenty-seven—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Twenty-eight—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Twenty-nine—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-two—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-three—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-four—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-five—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-six—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-seven—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-eight—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Thirty-nine—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-two—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-three—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-four—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-five—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-six—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-seven—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-eight—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty-nine—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—one—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.

Forty—Rev. Frank W. Pratt, the minister, will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening.